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**BY**

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- BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

*Kenneth G. Nickham*  
KENNETH G. NICKHAM

KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

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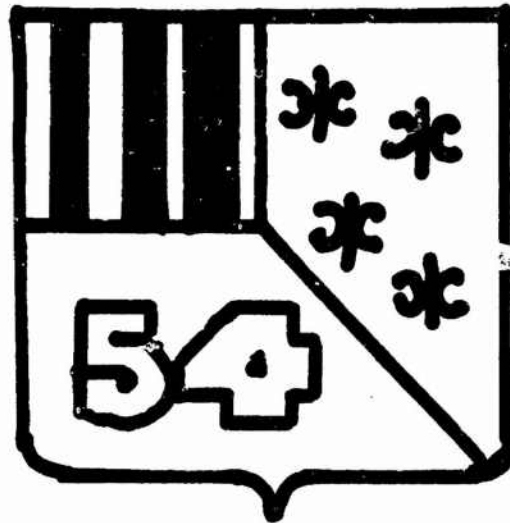
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## OPERATIONAL REPORT LESSONS LEARNED WA03-AA RCS-CS FOR-65

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FROM 1 NOV 67 TO 31 JAN 68

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 54TH ARTILLERY GROUP  
APO San Francisco 96376

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12 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968,  
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

THRU: Commanding General  
II Field Force Vietnam Artillery  
ATTN: AVFB-FAC

Commanding General  
II Field Force Vietnam  
APO 96266

Commanding General  
United States Army Vietnam  
ATTN: AVC-DF  
APO 96370

Commander-In-Chief  
United States Army Pacific  
ATTN: GPOP-JT  
APO 96558

TO: Department of the Army  
ATTN: ACSFOR, DA  
Washington, D. C. 20310

**SECTION I**

**SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**1. (C) Organization and Mission:**

a. This headquarters remains assigned to United States Army Vietnam and operates as a major subordinate command of USARV. Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam Artillery retains operational control of the 54th Artillery Group.

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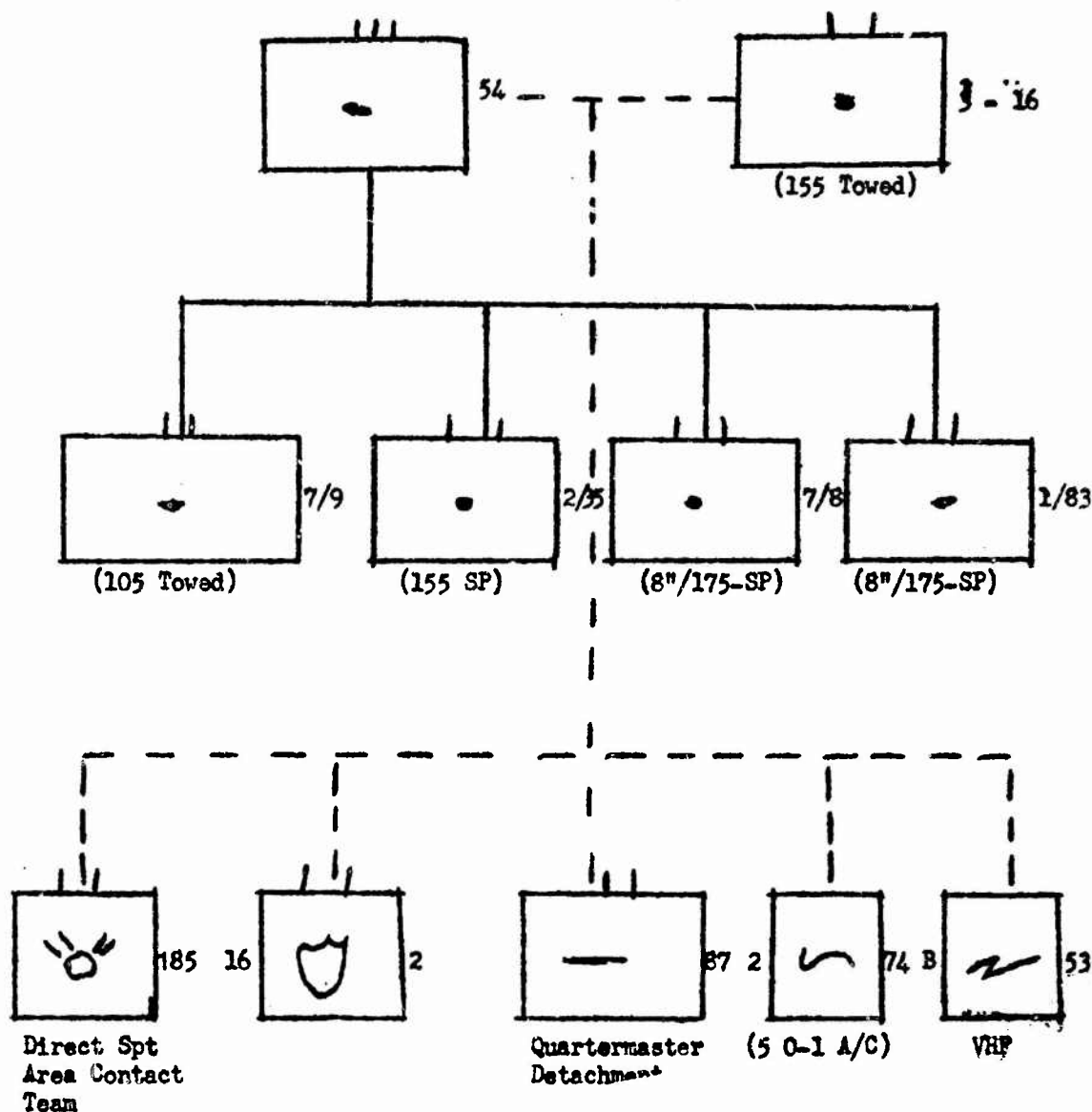
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b. Organizational Structure of the 54th Artillery Group effective  
Jan 68:



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c. The mission of the 54th Artillery Group is: General Support II Field Force Vietnam, reinforcing the 18th ARVN Division Artillery, 9th US Infantry Division Artillery, 101st US Airborne Division Artillery, 2d Howitzer Battalion, 40th Artillery, Howitzer Batteries 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and 4th Royal Australian Regiment of Artillery.

2. (C) Commander's Note: Command and Control.

a. The 54th Artillery Group mission as stated in para 1c above, has caused units within the Group to operate in areas in excess of 10,000 square kilometers. Distances between Group Headquarters, subordinate battalions, and dispersed firing batteries, complicate command control functions: Firing batteries are located on an average distance of 30 kilometers from their parent battalions, and in one case a firing battery was located a distance of 150 kilometers from battalion headquarters.

b. The 54th Artillery Group had no organic aviation section but was allocated two UH1D Helicopters daily and one additional helicopter for one half day during 50% of the reporting period. Command and staff visits, liaison missions, personnel moves, mail delivery, DEROS, and R&R moves, critical repair parts shipments, all are typical daily missions required to properly manage a force of 2400 personnel scattered from Ham Tan on the coast of the South China Sea, to Dong Tam in the Mekong Delta. Helicopter support was and continues to be inadequate.

c. A program to improve and refine the artillery and gunnery procedures within the 54th Artillery Group was initiated during the reporting period. This will be accomplished by improved training, evaluation, and supervision.

d. Command Changes:

(1) Lieutenant Colonel Todd S. Marsh, assumed command of the 7th Bn, 8th Artillery from LTC William T. Price on 8 Dec 67.

(2) Lieutenant Colonel Robert M. Balhizer, assumed command of the 1st Bn, 83d Artillery from LTC Glenn W. Million on 19 Jan 68.

(3) Lieutenant Colonel Maxwell R. Thurman, assumed command of the 2d Bn, 35th Artillery from LTC Alvin J. Gendron on 25 Jan 68.

3. (C) Administrative and Personnel Activities:

a. Personnel strength of the command as of 31 Jan 68 was:

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<u>UNIT</u>	<u>AUTH</u>			<u>ASG</u>		
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
H&B, 54th Arty Gp	15	1	90	27	1	115
7th Bn, 8th Arty	27	4	934	27	4	491
7th Bn, 9th Arty	35	3	498	31	3	440
2d Bn, 35th Arty	33	4	574	33	4	532
1st Bn, 83d Arty	31	4	544	27	4	491

b. Personnel changes within the command during this quarter were:

<u>GAINS</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>LOSSES</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
	18	1	364		19	0	395

c. Casualties within this command:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Killed in Action	1
Wounded in Action	15
Non Battle Dead	2

d. Awards and decorations presented to members of this command:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Silver Star	1
Legion of Merit	1
Soldiers Medal	1
Bronze Star	20
Air Medal	23
Army Commendation Medal	27
Purple Heart	16

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e. Judicial and non-judicial actions by units included:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>ART 15</u>	<u>SCM</u>	<u>SPCM</u>	<u>GCM</u>
HQB, 54th Arty Gp	4	2	1	0
7th Bn, 8th Arty	10	0	0	0
7th Bn, 9th Arty	24	1	2	0
2d Bn, 35th Arty	10	3	5	0
1st Bn, 83d Arty	41	2	2	2
TOTALS	89	6	8	0

f. Reportable accidents included:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>VEHICLE</u>	<u>AIRCRAFT</u>	<u>PERSONNEL</u>
HQB, 54th Arty Gp	1	0	4
7th Bn, 8th Arty	5	0	0
7th Bn, 9th Arty	4	0	2
2d Bn, 35th Arty	2	0	0
1st Bn, 83d Arty	1	2	2
TOTALS	13	0	12

g. Infusion: Infusion of officers and enlisted men was conducted with the 23d Artillery Group, 25th Infantry Division, and within the 54th Artillery Group. During the reporting period 8 officers and 85 enlisted men were infused with the 23d Artillery Group; 4 officers were infused with the 25th Infantry Division and 7 officers and 242 enlisted men were infused within the Group.

h. The 3d Battalion, 16th Artillery remains assigned to the Group and further attached to the Americal Division. The 54th Artillery Group retains promotional authority and the responsibility to provide personnel replacements.

4. (C) Intelligence Activities:

a. Visual Reconnaissance:

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(1) During the reporting period, support O-1 aircraft for the 54th Artillery Group was reduced from seven to five aircraft. Of the two aircraft lost, one supported the Group for 8 hrs each day; the other, 4½ hrs daily. The table below indicates the effect of this reduction as compared to the last reporting period.

<u>REPORT PERIOD</u>	<u>VR MISSIONS</u>	<u>HRS</u>	<u>CONVOY MISSIONS</u>	<u>HRS</u>	<u>W/A</u>	<u>REC</u>
Aug - Oct	1125	2401	90	180	294	369
Nov - Jan	900	1847	130	311	162	271

(2) The 54th Artillery Group is in the process of setting up a three day Aerial Observers Orientation Course. The course is scheduled to start on 5 Feb 68 with an input of four students and continue until all AO's within the Group have attended. The course will then be given on a quarterly basis or as needed.

5. (C) Operations:

a. During the reporting period, units of the Group participated in operations in support of the 18th ARVN Division, 9th Infantry Division, 25th Infantry Division, 101st Airborne Division, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and the 1st Australian Task Force. The operations were:

<u>OPERATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>
Santa Fe	Nov 67	B/7/9 A/2/35 A/1/83
Enterprise	Nov 67	B/2/35
Coronado	Nov 67	C/2/35
Forest	Nov 67	A/1/83
Atlanta	Nov 67	C/7/8
Gladstone	Dec 67	C/7/8
Cemunga	Dec 67	A/1/83
Shopperton	Dec 67	A/1/83
Dimbola	Dec 67	A/1/83
Milborn	Dec 67	A/1/83

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<u>OPERATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>
Lawley	Dec 67	A/1/83
Bordertown	Jan 68	A/1/83

b. During the reporting period, the total rounds fired by this command was: 160,778.

c. Significant Movements:

On 20 Jan 68, "B" Btry, 1st Bn, 83d Arty, made an 85 mile road march from Ham Tan to Bien Hoa. The battery was given only 12 hrs notice for one of the longest moves made by heavy artillery in Vietnam. The road march from Ham Tan to Bien Hoa was made without incident.

6. (U) Training:

a. To achieve artillery excellence, a comprehensive training and evaluation program was initiated. In the area of training the program consisted of, but was not limited to the following:

(1) Indoctrination of newly assigned personnel as to the individual's role in the accurate delivery of fire.

(2) Proficiency testing and certification of fire direction personnel prior to position assignment.

(3) Administration of the expert gunners test to selected firing battery personnel.

(4) Instruction of forward observers in jungle navigation, fire request procedures, and fire planning techniques prior to assignment in support of maneuver elements.

(5) Instruction of battery and battalion FDC personnel in target analysis, weapons selection, terminal effects, and ammunition selection for attack of targets.

(6) Fire direction training to include "double check" procedures, fire clearance channels, FADAC - check chart procedures, and fire command terminology.

(7) Indoctrination of all personnel in the fire delivery chain and standing rules of engagement of targets.

(8) Instruction in ammunition handling, inspection, and storage procedures.

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(9) Use of metro, survey, and calibration in the delivery of artillery fire.

b. In the area of evaluation, a three phase program was initiated. Prior to the first phase, a test and evaluation team was organized, consisting of two qualified gunnery officers: One to evaluate the firing battery and one to evaluate the fire direction and clearance procedures. An examination covering gunnery procedures and rules of engagement and a comprehensive checklist for the fire direction center and firing battery was compiled as the basis for the evaluation.

(1) During phase one, the test and evaluation team visited one battery from each battalion for approximately 24 hrs. A detailed report was presented to Group and battalion commander for action. In addition, a complete re-survey of all battery positions was accomplished to eliminate the possibility of error in survey control.

(2) Phase two consisted of a two hour seminar conducted by the test and evaluation team for the Group Commander, Group Executive Officer, and Battalion S-3's. Topics of discussion included: Observation of evaluations conducted thus far, specific problem areas, assistance necessary, and planning for phase three.

(3) Phase three is presently in progress and will continue for some time. It includes evaluating the remaining batteries within the Group and the organizing of test and evaluation teams at battalion level as a means of follow up.

c. This three phase program has met with enthusiasm, cooperation, and appreciation from all concerned. In addition to evaluating and testing, on the spot instruction has been presented and immediate corrective action has been initiated where required.

d. On 8 Jan 68, the 54th Artillery Group's new personnel arriving in Vietnam started attending replacement training at the Redcatcher Combat Training Center, of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade. Between 35 and 40 new personnel have attended each week during the month of January. Attendance at the training center has solved many of the problems involved in teaching mandatory training subjects to personnel in firing batteries located in field positions. All required replacement training subjects and most mandatory subjects required by AR 350-1 and USARV Reg 350-1 are taught at the Redcatcher Combat Training Center. In this way, most required training subjects are covered the first week a soldier is in Vietnam. The emphasis for the remainder of a soldier's tour will be on individual Proficiency and on-the-job training.

e. MTOE Approval: Approval for MTOE 6-456E, 457E, and 459E, 2d Bn, 35th Artillery was received during the reporting period. Principal personnel additions were: One (1) additional Assistant Executive Officer and two (2)

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additional forward observer sections in the firing battery, an additional Liaison Officer and Assistant S-3 in Headquarters and Headquarters Btry. Also added was an aviation section consisting of two (2) warrant officers, one (1) crew chief, and one (1) light truck driver, and two (2) helicopters (OH-6A).

7. (C) Logistics:

a. Supplies:

(1) The supply of repair parts was generally good during the reporting period. One exception was an M-88 Engine, FSN 2305-706-9059, which was not available for 56 days.

(2) A review of artillery and automotive PLL (prescribed load list) for the past quarter indicates that approximately 50% of the authorized repair parts for these categories have not been filled. Although it cannot be determined at this time if the lack of these PLL parts materially affected the downtime of units, it can be stated that the administrative workload involved in maintenance of supply records was increased significantly.

(3) Two new M110/107 howitzers were received under the exchange program (closed loop) during this period. The M115, panoramic telescope, were missing from the OEM of both vehicles and one M116, elbow telescope, had the reticle inverted and installed backwards.

b. Maintenance: Artillery downtime for units assigned to the 54th Artillery Group is shown below:

<u>TYPE UNIT</u>	<u>AVAILABLE DAYS</u>	<u>% DOWNTIME</u>
Light Arty Bn	1656	1
Medium Arty Bn	1656	6.4
Heavy Arty Bn	2208	7.9

c. Technical Assistance:

A Maintenance Specialist/Technical Representative from the US Army Weapons Command has been assigned to the 54th Arty Group. The individual assigned to this position has provided immeasurable service to the United States Army. He organized maintenance classes for inexperienced personnel, conducted technical inspection of weapons, participated in CMMI's, expedited the location and distribution of repair parts, and has provided the Group Commander with valuable advice on maintenance management procedures. This individual is a key man in the Group maintenance effort. In addition to this individual, the material readiness posture of the command would be enhanced if a United States Army Tank and Automotive Command (USATAC) representative was available to advise and assist on automotive problem areas.

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d. Maintenance Training:

The proficiency of M101A1 howitzer personnel was increased and the problem of insufficient maintenance personnel was solved when the 7th Bn, 9th Artillery and the 79th Maint Bn (GS) agreed to use crewmen from the firing batteries to assist maintenance personnel in the retrofit program of the M101A1 howitzer. To date, five weapons have been completed and the results of the program have been outstanding.

8. (C) Communications:

See Annex A.

9. (C) Civil Affairs:

a. The 54th Artillery Group has supported the Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAPS) throughout the Group area. There were 51 MEDCAPS, treating 2,537 patients.

b. The 16th Civil Affairs Platoon, attached to the 54th Artillery Group assisted the hamlet of Phu Binh in the construction of a water system in a village which previously had no such system.

c. Christmas kits were distributed to the families of the 181st and 182d Artillery Battalions of the 18th ARVN Division.

d. The Group S-5 in conjunction with the 16th CA Platoon planned and coordinated a Christmas party for 55 orphans in the Xuan Loc area. Many members of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 54th Artillery Group participated in the party on 24 Dec 67.

e. English classes are being conducted for about 150 students by Group Headquarters Battery Personnel. An average of 40 hrs of instruction per month is being presented.

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**SECTION II**

**PART I, OBSERVATIONS (C)**

**1. (C) Personnel and Administrations:**

**ITEM: Critical MOS Placement:**

(1) **DISCUSSION:** The assignment of 13B4C (Howitzer Section Chief) and 63B20 (Tracked/Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic) has been of constant interest to this command. To take full advantage of past experience, personal interviews are conducted to place section chiefs and mechanics in a unit with the type of weapons system or vehicle they are most familiar with.

(2) **OBSERVATION:** Personal interviews have assisted this command in taking full advantage of past training and experience.

**2. (U) Intelligence:**

**a. ITEM: Control of O-1 aircraft:**

(1) **DISCUSSION:** To insure adequate control, security, and quick recovery of downed aircraft, a flight following system has been initiated for control of O-1 aircraft which support the 54th Arty Gp. The system provides the 54th Arty Gp Operation Center the location of O-1 aircraft at all times. The system is simple and has proven effective. A 1:250,000 map has been divided into lettered sections along prominent terrain features and road networks. The pilot informs the Operation Center when he enters or leaves a particular section.

(2) **OBSERVATION:** If an aircraft is forced down, the Operational Control Center can immediately notify all aircraft in the vicinity to proceed to the designated section and begin search operations. This system provides immediate response and limits searching to a relatively small area.

**b. ITEM: Use of Aerial Observers:**

**DISCUSSION:** The 54th Arty Gp aerial observers have provided several types of air support. They have been used to inspect suspect enemy locations, adjust artillery fire, and to guide friendly ground forces to their objective. When guiding friendly forces through terrain that is thick jungle, it is very difficult to keep friendly forces in view. In the past the most successful method of locating friendly forces was the use of smoke grenades. At times the objectives were only a short distance from friendly elements and could not be located by the ground commander without aid from an aerial observer.

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(2) OBSERVATION: The most effective means of directing friendly ground forces to their objectives, was to have them mark their position with smoke and have aerial observers announce a bearing and estimated distance from friendly location to the objective. This enables the ground element to maneuver to its objective utilizing the shortest route, thus reducing loss of combat effectiveness.

c. ITEM: Location of Friendly Hamlets and Villages:

(1) DISCUSSION: In order to preclude artillery accidents and incidents, friendly hamlets and village locations are kept current by using as a supplement the Hamlet Evaluation System Survey which is published by MACV each month.

(2) OBSERVATION: From the Hamlet Evaluation System Survey the 54th Artillery Group was able to obtain data on friendly hamlets and villages throughout our area of operation.

3. (C) Operations:

a. ITEM: Helicopter Support:

(1) DISCUSSION: On 27 Nov 67, the 54th Artillery Group had attached to it three LOH 23's for reconnaissance, supervision of artillery movements, and command and control visits by the Group Commander, Battalion Commander's and their staffs. After only nine days, two of these aircraft were reassigned to another unit. At the present time, the one remaining helicopter is deadlined and has been deadlined since 3 Jan 68. Although the Group receives two UH1D Helicopters on a daily mission basis and an additional one every other half day, the Group does not have adequate helicopter support for command and control of four assigned battalions which are tactically employed throughout an area of 10,000 square kilometers.

(2) OBSERVATIONS: Because of the wide dispersal of units, additional helicopter support is required to insure that proper command and control at Group and Battalion level is more effectively exercised. As a minimum, an aviation section of four observation helicopters and two utility helicopters is required.

b. ITEM: Survey of Base Camps:

(1) DISCUSSION: Because of the 6400 Mil requirement with the 8"/175 weapons, the executive officer must relay his weapon when the direction of fire changes outside the traversing limitations of his weapons. In order to achieve the 6400 Mil capability, additional orienting stations are required so that the lay of the weapon can be checked by two independent aiming circles. As many as six to eight orienting stations may be required because of berms, built up areas, and other objects which interrupt the line of sight between the aiming circle and sight.

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(2) OBSERVATION: The 54th Artillery Group has instituted a program of surveying in all base camps so as to provide each unit with the best possible data in their base camp. This program began in Dec 67 and was completed in Jan 68. This survey program was performed by the battalion survey sections to insure that all batteries when in base camps are located on correct survey data.

c. ITEM: Velocity Error and Deflection Correction Records:

(1) DISCUSSION: With the mobile role of the artillery battery in Vietnam, it is often impossible to register for all charges upon the occupation of a new position. Corrections still must be applied prior to firing because of the heavily populated areas and the need for close support of friendly elements.

(2) OBSERVATION: By keeping an adequate record system for the recording of VE's and deflection corrections determined concurrently with previous registrations, an experience factor for corrections in the absence of a registration can be provided. The following format is suggested:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHG</u>	<u>VE</u>	<u>DF CORR</u>	<u>GFT SETTING</u>
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4. (C) Training:

ITEM: Road marching of heavy artillery units.

(1) DISCUSSION: Experience has shown that heavy artillery batteries must be exercised regularly to keep track equipment in a high state of readiness.

(2) OBSERVATION: By requiring M107/M110 vehicles to be exercised regularly, the ability of heavy batteries to move on short notice has greatly increased. One 8"/175mm battery completed an 85 mile road march without incident, after occupying a static position for over six months.

5. (C) Logistics:

a. ITEM: Failure of track pads:

(1) DISCUSSION: Heavy artillery units are experiencing a high rate of failure with the pad assembly T132E1, FSN 2530-780-5216. The pads are not worn out but pulled loose from the metal plate to which they are vulcanized.

(2) OBSERVATION: One battery moved 14 miles with two SP howitzers and lost 80 pads per vehicle. These pads had been used less than 100 road miles. A contributing factor may be the requirement to fire the weapon 6400 miles which requires the weapon to power shift from 10 - 20 times per day to perform fire missions.

b. ITEM: Fan Belts, M107/M110:

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(1) DISCUSSION: Failure of the fan belt set FSN 3030-780-7001, has caused significant downtime for heavy artillery weapons. As the old fan belt set, FSN 3030-528-6795, became defective, it was replaced by the new fan belt set. When the old set is requisitioned it is normally filled with a new fan belt set due to nonavailability of the old fan belt set.

(2) OBSERVATION: On the older models of the M107/M110, the fan and axel vane pulley and magnetic clutch is flat and the old fan belt set is also flat. The new model M107/M110 fan axel vane pulley and magnetic clutch pulley are grooved and the new fan belts are "V" shaped to fit. The new type fan belts "roll off" of the older howitzers/guns within hrs after installation. Maintenance procedures require that the fan and axel vane pulley be in perfect alignment with the magnetic clutch pulley. Yet even with great care, the belt continues to be a major source of trouble in keeping the M107/M110 operational.

c. ITEM: Special tool kits for heavy firing batteries:

(1) DISCUSSION: Deployment of heavy batteries in Vietnam requires that battery maintenance personnel perform maintenance operations which are normally functions of the battalion maintenance section. To increase the maintenance capability of the battery maintenance personnel, USARV recently approved the addition of Special Kit B, FSN 4901-606-8693 to the Special Kit A, FSN 4910-606-8692 at battery level.

(2) OBSERVATION: The authorization of Special Kit B, should greatly increase the maintenance capability of firing batteries which are separated from their battalions maintenance support by long distances.

d. ITEM: M109 Bore Evacuator Key and Screw Failure:

(1) DISCUSSION: Experience shows a high failure rate on the M109 Bore Evacuator Key, FSN 5315-826-5359 and screw FSN 5306-087-3748. Units have received and installed the new key and screw but are still experiencing shear failure of the screw and subsequent loss of the key beneath the dust shield. This condition occurs after firing several rounds of charge seven.

(2) OBSERVATION: The bore evacuator key and screw failure can cause scoring of the tube bearing surface when pieces of the defective component fall under the dust shield. Units of this command have removed the screw and key without noticeable effect on the functioning of the weapon.

e. ITEM: Identification of parts:

(1) DISCUSSION: Modification kits are being placed on M107 weapons on an in-country improvement program. Many of the component parts of these new kits are not listed by FSN in parts lists accompanying the kits.

(2) OBSERVATION: Problems in re-supply are experienced because the supply request must be handled manually and at times the DSU does not have the capability to locate the required part by the part number.

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AVGALC

12 Feb 68

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968,  
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

6. (C) Medical:

ITEM: OJT for Medics:

(1) DISCUSSION: 54th Artillery Group units have recently received several aidmen with minimum training. In an effort to provide better medical care, especially to batteries in field positions, an OJT program has been established with the largest evacuation hospitals in Long Binh. Training includes some classroom type instruction, but is centered in the emergency area of the hospital under close supervision of qualified medical personnel.

(2) OBSERVATION: The program is proving effective and will be continued.

**SECTION II**

**PART II, RECOMMENDATIONS (C)**

1. (U) Personnel and Administration:

To simplify assignment of personnel with common MOS but a different specialty, recommend a code system be established so that in addition to the MOS, a code designator would accompany the MOS. This code designator would establish the individual's specific area of proficiency. Assignments would be greatly speeded up using such a system.

2. (C) Operations:

a. Whenever new base camps are programmed, survey of gun positions and orienting stations by a target acquisition battalion should be included in the plan for the new base camp. By including survey in the plan accurate survey data can be applied to fire direction procedures so that very accurate artillery fire can be delivered as soon as the base camp is occupied. Battalion survey sections would be utilized to up date or check the survey data as the situation demands.

b. By keeping an adequate record of VE's and deflection corrections determined from previous registrations, the Fire Direction Officer is provided with an experience factor which can be used to analyze the new registration corrections against the established trend. Large differences in VE or deflection correction could point out possible errors in (1) Misplotting of battery location or the registration point on the chart; (2) Survey errors; (3) Computation of the adjusted or met data; and (4) The met data received from the met station.

3. (C) Logistics:

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a. Recommend that the vulcanizing process used to affix the pad to the metal plate be reevaluated to improve the strength of the pad to withstand the rotational torque of power shifting the gun carriage.

b. Recommend that sufficient quantities of old fan belts be returned to depot stocks to support old model M107/M110 vehicles until the vehicles are phased out of the system.

c. Recommend that every effort be made to assign FSN to component parts of modification kits prior to release to the field.



GLENN W. MILLION  
LTC, Artillery  
Acting Commander

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AVFB-FAC (12 Feb 68) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (U)

DA, HQ, II FFORCEV ARTY, APO 96266 5 MAR 1968

TERU: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, APO 96266  
Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHCG-DH, APO 96307  
Commander-In-Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: GPDP-OT, APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army,  
Washington, D. C. 20310

1. (U) The quarterly report for 54th Artillery Group (UIC: WAO3AA) adequately reflects the operations and lessons learned during the reporting period.
2. (C) Reference Section II, Part I, paragraph 3. A proposed MTOE 6-401G for a Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of an Artillery Group was submitted to HQ USARV on 20 October 1967. This proposed MTOE requested four (4) OH-6A and two (2) UH-1D helicopters for the Group Headquarters.
3. (U) Reference Section II, Part II, paragraph 1. Concur. The referenced problem has long existed. Recommend study be directed towards feasible solutions.
4. (C) Reference Section II, Part II, paragraph 2. Concur. Survey for permanent base camps is included in the programming and construction plans.
5. (C) Reference Section II, Part II, paragraph 3a. Concur. Units will be advised to submit an EIR through appropriate channels.
6. (C) Reference Section II, Part II, paragraph 3b. Concur. Appropriate action should be initiated at maintenance technical supply activities to insure that Belt Set, FSN 3030-528-7001, is not issued in lieu of Belt Set, FSN 3030-528-6795, and that stockage levels of both type belt sets are adequate to satisfy demands.
7. (C) Reference Section II, Part II, paragraph 3c. Concur. Action recommended will facilitate requisitioning procedures.

  
RAYMOND P. MURPHY  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.10

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AVFBC-RE-H (12 Feb 68) 2nd Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending  
31 January 1968. (RCS CSFOR-65)

DA, HQ II FFORCEV, APO San Francisco 96256 13 MAR 1968

THRU: Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC(DST), APO 96375  
Commander, US Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT, APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the  
Army, Washington, D.C. 20310

1. Subject report is forwarded.
2. This command has reviewed the attached ORLL of the 54th Artillery Group and concurs with the report with the following comment: Page 3, para 2b. There are insufficient aviation assets available to provide each commander the aviation assets he feels he needs.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*E. M. McGrath*

E. M. McGRATH  
CPT. AGC  
ASST AG

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AVHGC-DST (12 Feb 68) 3d Ind (C) CPT Arnold/rf/LEN 4485  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968,  
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375

2 APR 1968

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,  
APO 96558

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1968 from Headquarters, 54th Artillery Group as indorsed.

2. (C) Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning critical MOS placement, page 11, paragraph 1; page 15, paragraph 1; and 1st Indorsement, paragraph 3. The recommendation contained in page 15, paragraph 1 has already been implemented by Department of the Army through the use of the Additional Skill Identifier (ASI). AR 611-201 describes the use of the ASI and advises commanders on the procedures for requesting the establishment of new ASI.

b. Reference item concerning helicopter support, page 12, paragraph 3a; and 1st Indorsement, paragraph 2. The requirement for helicopter support is recognized; however, current DA policy expressed in DA CONFIDENTIAL msg 763149, ASCFOR Aviation, Subject: Aviation Units for RVN, establishes a moratorium on providing aircraft and aviators to CS and CSS units deploying to RVN with authorized aviation sections, but with zero fill. Requests for additional aviation support should be forwarded to CG II FFORCEV.

c. Reference item concerning fan belts, page 13, paragraph 5b; page 16, paragraph 3b; and 1st Indorsement, paragraph 6: Concur. There is a technical misunderstanding. The pulley on both items are "V" type as are both types of belts. The difference between the FSN's, is that FSN 3030-528-6795 is a single "V" belt and FSN 3030-780-7001 is a matched set of four "V" belts. The user should refrain from using the single "V" belt FSN 3030-528-6795 and requisition the matched set of four "V" belts using the new FSN 3030-780-7001. It has been determined by WECOM that the single "V" belt FSN 3030-528-6795 should be removed from the supply system and personnel are encouraged to assure that appropriate disposition is made of this item.

d. Reference item concerning identification of parts, page 14, paragraph 5e; page 16, paragraph 3c; and 1st Indorsement, paragraph 7: Concur. Modification kit parts lists were made approximately two years ago prior to assignment of FSN for some items. Customer Assistance has the capability to identify all items listed on the parts list and is currently working with the organizations conducting Ad Hoc modification to supply FSN's and other technical assistance required for accomplishment of MWO.

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.10

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AVHGC-DST (12 Feb 68) 3d Ind (C)

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968,  
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

3. (U) A copy of this indorsement will be furnished to the reporting unit through channels.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*G. S. Nakatsukasa*  
**G. S. NAKATSUKASA**  
Captain, AGC  
Assistant Adjutant General

Copy furnished:  
HQ II FFORCEV  
HQ 54th Arty Gp

75-  
GPOP-DT (12 Feb 68) (U) 4th Ind

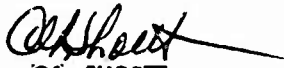
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 54th Arty Gp for Period Ending  
31 January 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 23 APR 1968

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the  
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorse-  
ments and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

  
C.I. SHORTT  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

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## ANNEX A

### Communication: Secure Mode Voice Communication

1. (C) As of 27 Oct 67, there was limited secure mode voice communications operational in the 54th Artillery Group. The KY-8 speech scramblers were available within HQ, 54th Artillery Group and all battalion headquarters but they could only be used over very short distances. All classified messages were either encoded or sent by RTT.

2. (C) Actions taken to make secure mode voice communication available throughout the 54th Arty Gp and with higher headquarters were as follows:

#### a. Antennas:

(1) The RC 292 Antenna is a required item due to the long distances between units within the 54th Arty Gp.

(2) The erection of 65 foot poles to give the additional benefit of the elevated RC 292 Antennas is the key to success. Sixty-five (65) foot poles have been erected or are programmed throughout the Group as follows:

(a) HQ, 54th Arty Gp	19 Dec 67
(b) HQ, 7th Bn, 8th Arty	4 Jan 68
(c) HQ, 7th Bn, 9th Arty	1 Nov 67
(d) HQ, 2d Bn, 35th Arty	18 Dec 67
(e) HQ, 1st Bn, 83d Arty	Programmed

#### b. Power Sources:

(1) The power source is critical to the satisfactory operation of the KY-8. The working voltage is between 24 and 28 volts but the ideal voltage is 27.5. To achieve this, it is imperative that the batteries and rectifier being used in a fixed station be checked daily and proper maintenance performed.

(2) A minimum of two 12 volt batteries should be connected in a series across the rectifier terminal. But it is also recommend that an auxiliary power source be used. This should consist of two or more 12 volt batteries connected in parallels with the two primary batteries.  
(See Tab A to Annex A)

#### c. Maintenance:

(1) Daily maintenance consists of keeping the matrix box free

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Annex A Cont'd

from all traces of dust, grease, and fingerprints. The "X-Mode" cable must be checked to insure that it is free of tension especially at the ends. There cannot be any sharp tight bends.

(2) The power supply must be checked for correct output. The batteries must be checked for correct level of electrolyte. The battery terminal must be free from all dust and corrosion.

d. Training:

(1) The training required to operate the KY-8 is minimal providing the personnel are already qualified RTO's.

(2) The matrix setting should be done by the duty officer or a competent NCO who must have a secret clearance. This setting should be double checked for exact position within the setting of the daily "Key List".

3. Continuing Action:

a. Daily Checks:

(1) The matrix box settings are changed daily at 0800H (local time). Communication checks between units of this headquarters are made daily at 0830, 1230, 1630, and 2130. This check is made between the 54th Artillery Group, 23d Artillery Group, and II FFORCEV Arty at 0800, 1200, 1600, and 2100. Additional checks are made as traffic requirements dictate before passing traffic in the secure mode.

(2) The operator performs routine checks each time the equipment is used, such as cable communications, setting of the matrix box, position check on the KY-8, old squelch off, and switch in the green position.

b. Weekly checks: The weekly checks include all those checks outlined in the daily checks but all are accomplished by communications personnel in detail.

c. Maintenance Procedures: The maintenance procedures for the KY-8 are similar to all other equipment with respect to organizational and support maintenance except crypto equipment is not evacuated through support maintenance. Crypto equipment goes direct to the Crypto Custodian at Tan Son Nhut Airbase for exchange or repair.

4. Equipment shortages: The equipment shortages are being corrected through redistribution within the Group.

5. Conclusion:

a. The Ky-8 is an extremely valuable piece of equipment which is adequate for distances involved (See Tab B to Annex A) when operated under proper conditions with elevated antennas.

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Annex A Cont'd

b. The reliability of the KY-8's now in operation within the Group is better than 80% with respect to being operational for passing classified tactical traffic. The Group now has communications established with II FFORGEV Arty, 23 Arty Group, 7th Bn, 8th Arty, 7th Bn, 9th Arty, 2d Bn, 35th Arty, 1st Bn, 83d Arty, and other outlying batteries utilizing the KY-8. The increased efficiency for the Group Operations Center as a result of the KY-8 is immeasurable.

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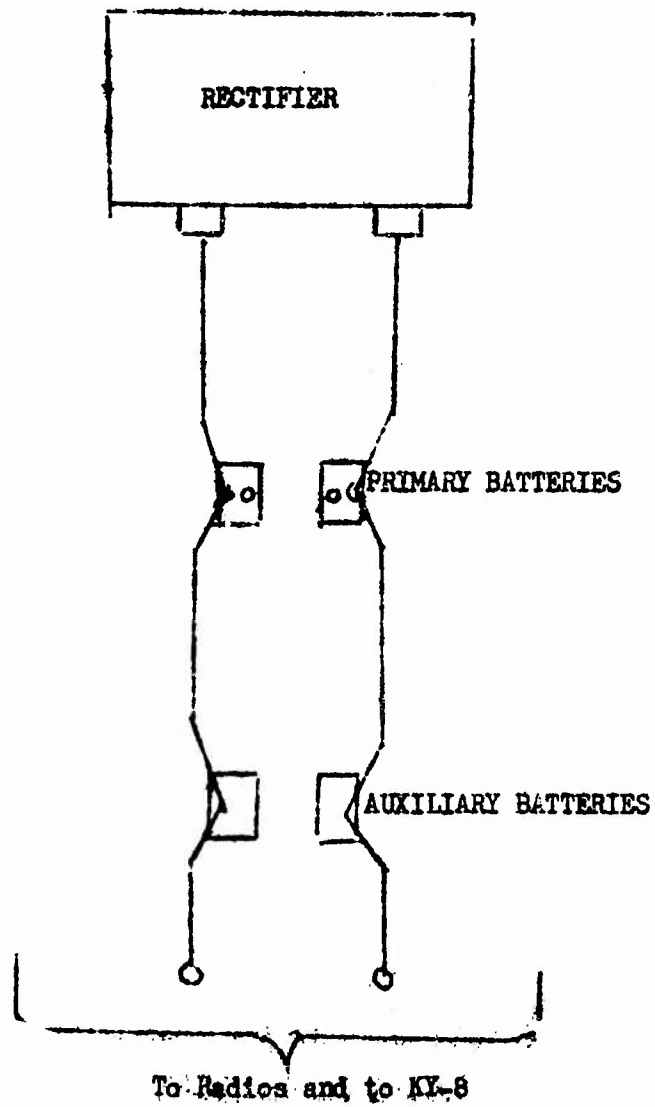
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TAB A to Annex A

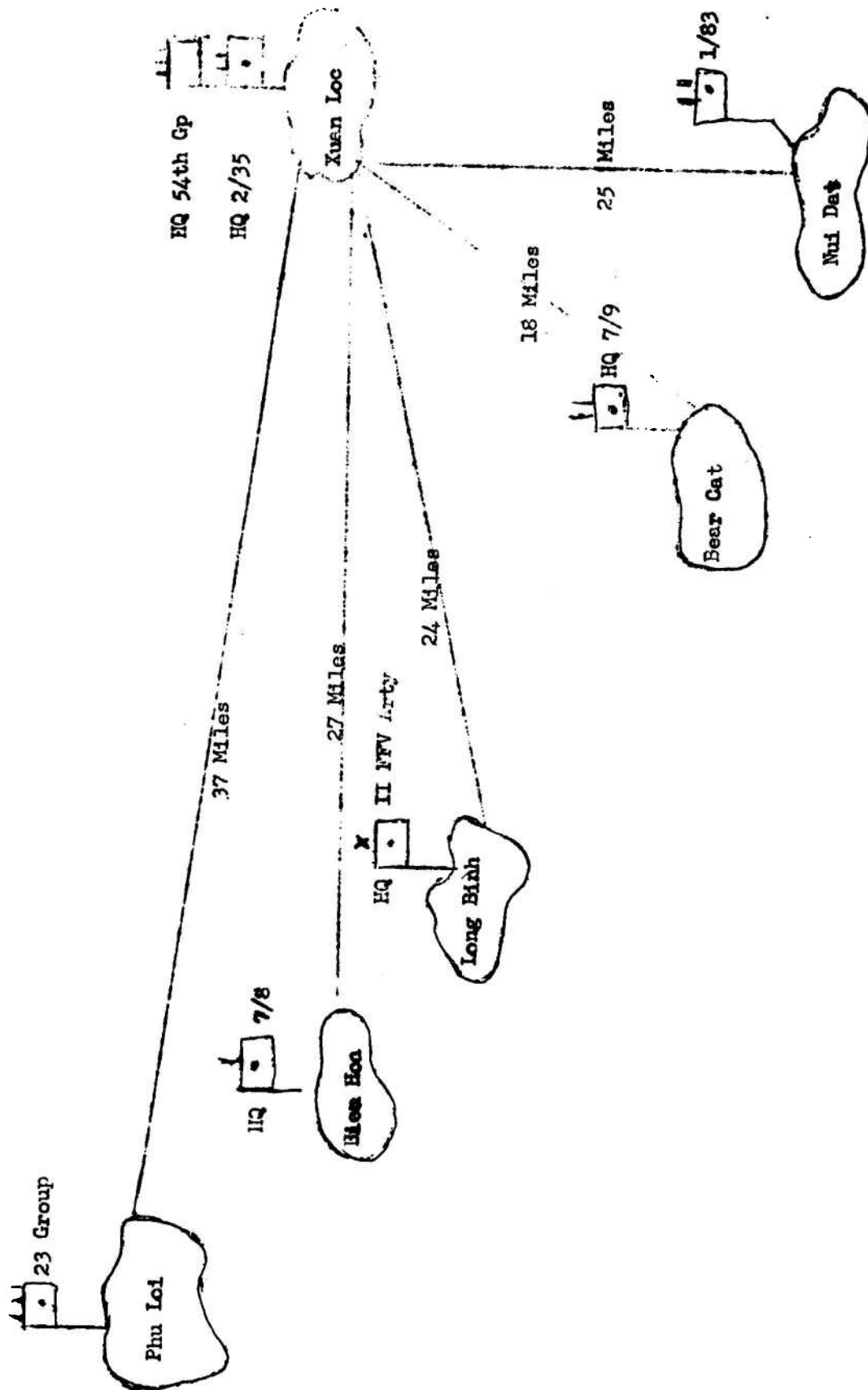
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POWER SOURCE FOR RADIOS AND KY-8



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TAB B to Annex A

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4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates)		
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5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name)		
CO, 54th Artillery Group.		
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13. ABSTRACT		

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